

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2 and 9-11 stand rejected. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that claims 3-8 and 12-17 may be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Horiguchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,251) (hereinafter "Horiguchi"). The rejection to claims 9-11 is respectfully traversed.

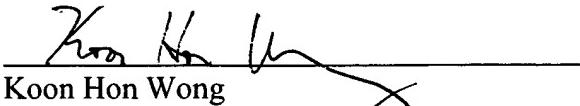
Claim 1 claims, *inter alia*, "a *non-abrupt* switching circuit for controlling the at least one sleep transistor to control the *rate of change* of the current flow to the logic circuit over a period of time." Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the switch (Ss1-Ssk) discloses a "sleep transistor," as claimed in claim 1, Figure 11A and its corresponding text do not disclose "a *non-abrupt* switching circuit for controlling the at least one sleep transistor to control the *rate of change* of the current flow to the logic circuit over a period of time."

Accordingly, claim 1 believed to be patentably distinguishable over the Horiguchi. The arguments presented for claim 1 apply to independent claim 9. Dependent claims 2, 10 and 11 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons given for the independent claims. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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